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NEWS

Mamadou's re-opens, owners thank Winchester for support

NELL ESCOBAR COAKLEY | STAFF WRITER

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Mamadou's is open and bakers Gabe Galvez and Mamadou Mbaye have been busily filling the display cases with pastries and bread. WINCHESTER NEWS STAFF PHOTO/NELL ESCOBAR COAKLEY

It's been six months since a car crashed through the wall of Mam
Artisan Bakery, knocking out power to the Swanton Street busine

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causing its closure just four days before the Christmas holidays.

And while owners Mamadou and Mame Mbaye say it was a long wait, they are thrilled to be open once again.

"It was a long process...a long, long process," said Mame Mbaye. "But we decided to re-open May 31 and we put a note on Facebook to tell people. On Saturday morning, it was jammed. People came and we were so happy."

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The display cases are full of breads and pastries now that Mamadou's Artisan Bakery is re-open on Swanton Street. WINCHESTER NEWS STAFF PHOTO/NELL ESCOBAR COAKLEY

Mamadou Mbaye said the business passed its inspection on May 30 and was open the next day.

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"I said, let's just open tomorrow," he said, of the decision. "We waited through a long winter."

Mame agreed.

"People who came in said, 'We missed you so much,'" she said. "The Sunday after we opened, was also so busy. It's like we never closed."

The accident

It was just after 6 o'clock on Dec. 21, 2024 when police were called to the 63 Swanton St. location of Mamadou's Artisan Bakery for a report of a car that had crashed through the building.

Winchester Police said the driver, who lives in the area, was on his way home when he tried to take a left on Florence Street. The driver told police the car in front of him slammed on its brakes, causing him to try to avoid it.

The driver said his car skidded and struck Mamadou's electrical panel, going through the wall.

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A close up look at the damaged electrical panel outside Mamadou's Artisan Bakery at 63 Swanton St.
WINCHESTER NEWS STAFF PHOTO/SHUKONG OU

Lt. Ed Donohue said the damage to the driver's car was consistent to his story. He added the driver was not intoxicated or impaired and w uninjured.

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He said the damage to Mamadou's was the loss of both power and heat as well as the hole in the wall.

The Mbayes were onsite the day after the accident, cleaning up the interior of the store. The business, however, was closed after the accident.

A GoFundMe raised $21,345 to help the family with expenses.

What's next?

The Mbayes said the closure was really tough, especially since the repair work couldn't be done right away.

"It couldn't be done because it was such a cold winter," said Mamadou. "Cement doesn't cure in cold weather. We have to have warm weather. That was the biggest problem."

Mamadou's Artisan Bakery, located at 63 Swanton St., is open once again following a six-month
an accident on Dec. 21 when a car crashed through a side wall. WINCHESTER NEWS STAFF PHOTO/
ESCOBAR COAKLEY

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But once the weather changed, the masonry work went quickly and the building commissioner came out to inspect the site.

Beside waiting for the weather to warm up, the couple joked they spent their winter looking for a good place to buy bread. Mame, a self-proclaimed bread lover, said they visited many area bakeries, checking out the competition and looking for the perfect loaf.

"It was really difficult to find good bread," she said, with a laugh. "Mamadou's has the best bread!"

Mamadou said it was nice to know the community missed having their business open, especially since everything is made on site.

"When people come in, they see the product being made, they smell it and they know it's made here," he said. "As a baker, I love what I do. It's not just a job, it's something that I really love to do."

The couple also said they wanted to convey their appreciation and love to the Winchester community for its support and concern over the past six months.

"Please thank everyone for us," Mamadou said. "We love the Winchester community."

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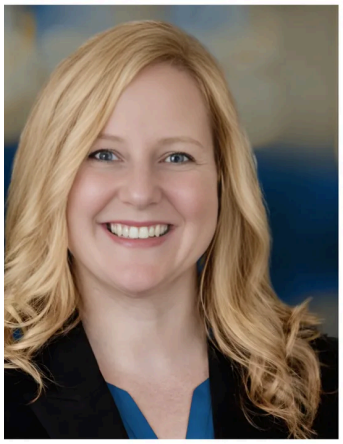

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'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. Set in the 1920s, this iconic production is sure to leave the audience wanting more. Performances will

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The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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